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## THE ANGLO-AMERICAN TREATY.

The following special dispatch from Washington to the *Boston Herald* of June 20th gives the substance of all that is known about the progress of the negotiations for a general arbitration agreement between this country and Great Britain. This dispatch is in harmony with statements made in the House of Commons on the preceding day by Mr. Curzon, under foreign secretary.

"Important negotiations for a general arbitration agreement between the United States and Great Britain are in progress between the governments of the two countries. The negotiations would have been well advanced toward settlement had the authorities not been hampered by the Venezuelan question. It is this subject which is keeping the President, Secretary Olney, Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador, and Minister Andrade, the Venezuelan minister, in this city longer than their original plans contemplated.

The President is now engaged in negotiations with Great Britain for a general arbitration agreement and the inclusion in it of the Venezuelan question.

Great Britain is not disposed to include the Venezuelan dispute in the convention.

When the subject of a general arbitration treaty be-

tween the United States and Great Britain was first broached, this government made it plain that it desired the Venezuelan boundary controversy to be settled under its terms.

The administration now has hopes of being ultimately successful. The authorities have little fear that the reported conflict between Venezuelans and Englishmen in the territory in dispute will dangerously complicate the boundary controversy. Minister Andrade says he has received no word of the alleged difficulty, and the State department and British embassy also express ignorance. But even if the occurrence took place, it is said that it would simply be another Yuruan incident.

It is something, or rather a great deal, to know that negotiations for such a treaty are actually seriously under way. We are naturally anxious that the proceedings should get on as rapidly as possible, but such a negotiation as this must, in the nature of the case, take no small amount of time. With the favorable attitude of the men who are at the head of affairs and the amount of intelligent public sentiment that has been brought to bear upon the governments on both sides of the water, we confidently expect to see all obstacles from the Venezuelan question and from all other sources satisfactorily surmounted, and the agreement in due time made and ratified.

## THE MOHONK CONFERENCE.

The second Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration was held at Lake Mohonk, N. Y., on the 3d, 4th and 5th of June. Of the large number of influential citizens invited by Mr. Smiley to attend the Conference as his guests about one hundred and twenty-five were present. Many who could not come because of other engagements sent letters of regret, in which they expressed their cordial approval of the purposes for which the Conference was called.

The personnel of the Conference was most excellent. We have never seen at any Conference a finer body of people. Of statesmen and diplomats there were ex-Senator Edmunds, Hon. John A. Kasson, Mr. Gillett, M. C., of Massachusetts. The bench and bar were represented by Judge Stiness of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, Judge Earl for twenty-five years Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of New York, William

Allen Butler, Cephas Brainerd and Walter S. Logan of the New York Bar, and George S. Hale and E. L. Pierce of the Boston Bar. Educational interests were represented by Hon. John Eaton, ex-U. S. Commissioner of Education, President Warfield of Lafayette, Prof. J. B. Clark of Columbia, Charles R. Skinner, State Supt. of Public Instruction of New York, etc. Of distinguished ministers there were Edward Everett Hale, Lyman Abbott, Bishop Foss, Dr. MacArthur, Dr. Reuben Thomas, Dr. Charles L. Thompson, Dr. Bradford, etc. There were several representatives of the newspaper and periodical press: Robert U. Johnson of the *Century Magazine*, Edwin D. Mead of the *New England Magazine*, Dr. Halleck and Mr. Bright of the *Christian Work*, Mr. Foxcroft of the *Boston Journal*, etc. Besides these there were a number of eminent publicists, philanthropists and business men. The most interesting figure in the Conference was Mr. Hodgson Pratt, President of the International Arbitration and Peace Association of London, who has given the last fifteen years of his life largely to the cause of arbitration and peace and has been so influential in the organization and development of the movement on the continent of Europe. Mr. Pratt, because of his intense interest in the promotion of greater concord between the English-speaking nations, came all the way from Lausanne, Switzerland, to attend the Conference. He was heartily welcomed and listened to with the greatest respect whenever he spoke.

Ex-Senator Edmunds, against his own strongly expressed wish, was chosen chairman of the Conference. By his intelligence and dignity as a presiding officer and by his extended knowledge of history and constitutional law he added much to the interest and success of the Conference. When he had to leave at the end of the second day, Robert Treat Paine, President of the American Peace Society, was called to the chair and presided admirably during the rest of the Conference.

The Business Committee, who had charge of the arrangement of the program and the drafting of the declaration of the Conference, consisted of Dr. Lyman Abbott, chairman, Samuel B. Capen, John B. Garrett, Robert U. Johnson, Robert Treat Paine, Judge Stiness and Benjamin F. Trueblood.

The papers, the addresses, and the short speeches made during the discussions were nearly all of a high order. It is rare to hear better speaking, or more intelligent discussion. There was real earnestness in the Conference at all the sessions, amounting at times to genuine enthusiasm, but it was an intelligent and wisely directed earnestness.

The main subject to which the Conference gave its thought was that of a permanent international tribunal for the adjustment of differences between nations. There was a wide divergence of views as to details, and the subject was approached from many different standpoints.

Nearly all conceivable objections were considered, some of them being set up merely to give an opportunity for knocking them down. Some of the speakers wanted a court always sitting with power to enforce its decrees. Others preferred a court of conciliation pure and simple. But there was substantial agreement that a permanent tribunal is both desirable and practicable, and that its decisions would be carried out through the power of public opinion. As to the number of nations at first to be included in the scheme, the general feeling was that a beginning should be made with the United States and Great Britain, and the United States and France. If these great powers should unite in such an arrangement they would become centres of attraction for a number of small powers which would soon come in.

One of the things which impressed us most about the Mohonk Conference was the evidence which it gave of the rapid development of public opinion in favor of the adjustment of all international disputes by rational peaceful methods. The same impression was given by the recent conference at Washington and by the earlier one at Philadelphia. Such conferences would have been impossible even twelve months ago. In saying this, we do not underestimate in any way the many courageous and often thankless efforts put forth during the last eighty years in behalf of the cause. On the contrary, the present apparently sudden development has its roots deep in this difficult and by many unknown past. But every great movement reaches ultimately a stage when it seems to go of itself, when everybody is its friend, when even its best supporters have difficulty in keeping abreast of it. On this stage it seems to us clear that the peace movement is about to enter, if it has not already entered, at least so far as it is related to a few nations which lead the march of civilization.

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#### DECLARATION OF THE MOHONK CONFERENCE.

"In the settlement of personal controversies civilization has substituted the appeal to law for the appeal to force. It is high time for a like substitution of law for war in the settlement of controversies between nations. Law establishes justice, war simply demonstrates power. Such a substitution of law for war requires a permanent tribunal to which all nations may appeal. Its personnel may change, but its judicial life should be continuous; its mere existence would often prevent controversy, and its decisions would become a recognized interpretation of international law. It would not impair the sovereignty, lessen the dignity, nor hazard the honor or safety of any nation. The enforcement of its judgments might be safely left to the moral obligations of the nations concerned, and the moral sentiments of mankind. Such tribunal should be so constituted that all civilized nations may, if they choose, by adhering to the treaty